

Press-Herald

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A Nickel Tradition Goes

Can you remember the penny candy counter, the penny postcard, the five-cent cigar? Soon another nickel tradition will vanish as the five-cent first-class postage stamp heads for oblivion and the cost of inflation hits home once again.

In spite of the 250 per cent increase over the years in first class postage rates, the Post Office Department is still fighting a losing battle in its endeavor to hold down losses. And it looks as if Congress will approve the six-cent stamp for regular mail and the ten-center for air mail.

Industry is concerned. Prompt communication is one of the vital requirements in the American economy. Industry recommends positive steps to help solve the problem:

- The Post Office Department should use professional management to develop accurate accounting of the actual costs of servicing the various classes of mail, use systems analysis techniques to provide a basis for continuing cost control efforts, and to determine to what extent subsidies for its public service functions are required.

- Provide an adequate research and development budget to encourage the postal organizations to take fuller advantage of modern technology.

- More management flexibility in personnel selection, retention and promotion.

Professional know-how should be considered by the Federal Commission on the Post Office. This "outside" viewpoint could lead to more effective utilization of present facilities, sound recommendations for the refinement of handling and transportation of mail communications, and the eventual elimination of a postal deficit.

An Important Lesson

One of the first things a youngster should be taught today is how to use the telephone. Even before learning to read and write, each child should know how to reach the operator. As case histories of the National Public Safety Council's publication "Family Safety" show, even a little four-year old saved her mother's life because she knew how to reach the telephone operator.

Every child of three or older can be taught to speak his name and address clearly and should know how to make an emergency phone call. The simple act of dialing "0" might save his life or make it possible to save yours.

Every child old enough to be away from home should be checked-out on the use of a pay phone. He should be taught to lift the receiver off the hook, drop the coin in the slot that matches it in size, listen for the dial tone, and then dial or punch "0" and wait for the voice of the lady who will always be able to get the needed help.

We all should take similar precautions and insist that each child has at least one dime in change—reserved for that all-important telephone call.

Remember that dime—in a real emergency it could save a life!

Opinions of Others

The Treasury Department has completed a tabulation of the debt still owed the United States by World War I debtor nations. As of the end of the fiscal year last June 30, this debt had increased \$324 million in interest and stood at \$21,352,854,709. Only little Finland made any payments last year; \$185,000 towards principal and \$167,892 in interest. The others made no payment.—Walden (N.Y.) Citizen Herald.

Communist North Korea has only 10 million inhabitants. But it has more war planes than all Latin America. The same applies to two other communist areas of influence, Egypt and Iraq.—Huntsville (Ala.) News.

Speaking of wars, like the war on crime, war on poverty, and war on ugliness. It seems we got a new one called a surtax. It's called the war on taxpayers.—Tonasket (Wash.) Tribune.

Our country was founded and continues to rest on the basis that, even before any man's beliefs, there comes the principle that each man is entitled to his own belief.—Brownsville (Pa.) Telegraph.

You really can't judge a modern girl by her clothes. There isn't enough evidence.—Editor Lee R. Call in the Afton (Wyo.) Star Valley

Morning Report:

Don't worry about the fighting of the new generation.

Without arms—so far, at least—the group under 30 has taken on the police at several campuses. While my generation used to tug at its forelock when the college prexy went by, or at the very least said, "Good morning, sir," the youngsters nowadays sit in his office and drop ashes on his rug. Undaunted by campus rules, or even ordinary politeness, they have blocked the recruiting desks of such powers as the Marine Corps and the CIA. Even Secretary McNamara, and everybody knows the weapons he packs, has been surrounded in his own car and defied.

I figure as soon as they get through Democracy I, a tough course, America has the greatest gang of dirty guerrilla fighters and daring assault troops ever.

Abe Mellinkoff

Not Really a Traitor



HERB CAEN SAYS:

The Only Way to Be Sure Is to Be Only Half Safe

The Pentagon is said to be working on an aerosol spray to drown the "American odor" of soap, deodorants, cigarettes and chewing gum. The only way to be safe is half-safe?

Jim Cahill of Laguna Beach, a briefcase under his arm, walked into L'Etoile with Auctioneer Reeder Butterfield for dinner, and the hatchback tried to take the briefcase. Cahill snatched it back and placed it under his table, his feet firmly on top of it. Inside the case: \$100,000 worth of jewelry and rare coins, to be auctioned by Butterfield. . . . Novelist Angus Wilson, now lecturing at the University of California at Berkeley, refused an invitation to spend a weekend at David Pleydell-Bouverie's ranch in the Valley of the Moon "because I don't trust myself—I'm always so RUDE to members of the British aristocracy!"

Perils of the big city: San Francisco Atty. Richard A. Hoge represented a hippie on a marijuana charge, won the case, and took as his fee

the hippie's motorcycle. Riding it for the first time, he crashed into a fence and now has seven stitches in his leg and a smashed knee. . . . Dick Davis, driving to work the other 5 a.m., noticed flames flickering in an apt. house at Gough and

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

Hayes, turned in an alarm and then stood in front of the place, hollering "Fire Fire!" Somebody above opened a window, shouted "Shuddup!" and hit him on the head with a can of hair spray. The fire was a two-alarm and everybody was saved, thanks to Dick, who has a big lump on his head. . . . Mrs. Polly Jenkins, almost sideswiped by a car trying to cut in, yelled "Go ahead, go ahead—you're driving like a bat out of hell anyway." The priest behind the wheel of the other car waved meekly and went ahead.

Barrel's bottom: The Los Angeles City Council's search for a song about that

town has stirred Folksinger Malvina Reynolds in action, but I think her title, "Nowhere," will knock her out of the running. Not to mention her opening line: "You can't see it for the smog and you can't get there for the traffic!"

Pat Collins, the attractive hypnotist who's headlining at Bimbo's, got Mr. Bimbo onstage the other night, tried to hypnotize him and struck out. "Sorry," apologized Bim, "It's this terrible habit of mine—I keep watching the waiters!" . . . Cecilia Chiang is moving her Mandarin restaurant off Polk St. and into Ghirardelli Square next April. . . . Brrrr: The Black Powerites claim they've "improved" the Molotov cocktail into something they call "Dime Store Napalm"—a bottled combination of styrofoam, soapflakes and gasoline. . . . Has Moshe Dayan got a gag writer? Asked what he would have done if Israel had lost the war last June, he replied: "I would have started another in my wife's name."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Sweden's Planned Society Developing a Few Squeaks

Sweden is the country in which the number of suicides is annually larger than highway fatalities, which may or may not be a tribute to the driving in that well-run socialistic kingdom. It is a world financial center, the richest country in Europe, a relatively small, homogeneous nation (of some 8 million), but with mutterings of discontent in what should be, and to some degree is, the ideal planned society.

Sweden is an excellent social laboratory, a highly industrialized nation with the greatest life expectancy in Europe in which experiments of all kinds are perpetually taking place—those that fail are scrapped, and back to the drawing board with others, almost immediately.

It is a perplexing country, from its "government by discipline" to its attitudes toward sex, which are more enlightened (if often eyebrow-raising) and less neurotic than in any other developed society. The alcoholic problem there has always been acute; there is racial prejudice, a certain

national ennui, a rising crime rate and, under the new morality, juvenile delinquency has become the cause of considerable concern.

Frederic Fleisher, a newspaper correspondent in Stockholm, as student and journalist, has lived in

Browsing Through the World of Books

Sweden for 15 years and is fluent in the language, presents a first-rate profile of a nation and a middle-class form of continuous revolution in "The New Sweden: The Challenge of a Disciplined Democracy."

This is no doubt the most informed and spirited analysis of this realm since Marquis Childs' "Sweden: The Middle Way" of 30 years ago which told how Sweden devised and utilized constructive methods to check the destructive forces of capitalism.

Fleisher's is a balanced, informed contemporary, continually interesting analysis of a way of life that

could be the world of tomorrow, womb to tomb, and the films of Ingmar Bergman to boot.

Leonard Gross, a former reporter on the San Francisco Chronicle, more recently a Look magazine correspondent in Latin America and now its European editor, is the author of "The Last Best Hope: Eduardo Frei and Chilean Democracy."

This is an incisive report on modern Chile, where the election of President Frei makes Chile (a blend of poverty and progress) a test case for democracy in Latin America. It is an "eyewitness report" on Frei's fight to modernize Chile, the first major test of social revolution, democratic style, in the hemisphere.

It is the author's thesis that the success of the Christian Democratic President's program could change the entire Southern Hemisphere. Its failure on the other hand, could confirm the pessimism of millions of Latin Americans and perhaps deliver Chile to the Marxists by 1970.

CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

This George Murphy Has State's Largest Law Firm

By EDWIN S. CAPPS

Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — Mention the name, George Murphy, to many Californians and they probably will think of the State's junior U. S. Senator. But mention that name to members of the State Legislature and officials in state government and they will think of the Legislative Counsel.

George Murphy, Legislative Counsel, with his staff of 37 deputies (that probably will increase to about 45 when the session begins next year), runs one of the busiest law offices in California. For the first 10 months of 1967 — before the five-week special session of the Legislature — Murphy's office handled 23,630 requests.

Now a request from a legislator may mean the drafting of a bill, preparation of a set of amendments or rendering of an opinion. "The drafting of a bill is the ultimate product and may not amount to very much," Murphy said. "It might be a matter of a couple of lines and take only several minutes to write."

"But the preliminary work often is where the time comes in," he said. "We have to decide if the bill is necessary and how we can accomplish what the author wants. The only way the Legislature can speak is through the statutes and there has to be a lot of preparation before we get around to the magic words."

Some of the requests for drafting of bills are quite simple, Murphy said, as the bill may be a reintroduction of one from a previous session. Or it may be all prepared.

"But some other times, I will be walking down the hall and a legislator will say: 'George, I'd like to have a bill to do so and so,'" Murphy said. "Then we may have a job on our hands."

Murphy said his office actually operates very much

like a regular law office, with 120 members of the legislature as clients. The Legislative Counsel, in addition, is supposed to help state departments in the drafting of legislation.

However, legislative counsel opinions may be requested only by members of the legislature.

"Our opinions are the same as any opinion of a

The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

lawyer to a client," Murphy said. "And they are all confidential as we maintain the lawyer-client relationship with each legislator."

Sometimes, the opinions, as well as bills or amendments to bills, are needed in a big hurry, even though considerable research may be involved.

"As of this morning, we had 348 requests pending in our office," Murphy said. "But if a member asks for an opinion at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, no matter how complex it might be, if we don't have it for him by 10 o'clock tomorrow morning it probably would be of no value."

While Murphy is appointed by resolution by both houses of the legislature, all of his staff except for a couple of exempt deputies are a part of the executive branch of government. They are on civil service status and this assures the impartial and objective approach.

Quite often, opinions will be sought by both sides of the aisle in a bitter partisan dispute. If ever there were a feeling the Legislative Council's office was favoring one party or one individual, the opinions would cease to have much effect.

"The whole key to this operation is objectivity," Murphy said. "We have to stay in the middle of the line. How do we know if we're doing this?"

"If we get as many complaints from one side as we

do from the other, we feel we're doing it about right," he said.

Murphy has been with the Legislative Counsel's office for 21 years, and has been the legislative counsel since 1964. One of the innovations put into effect since he took over has been the amended digest which is printed at the bottom of every bill being considered by the legislature.

When a bill is introduced, it includes a brief digest which tells what the bill does. It used to be that, once a bill was amended, the digest was dropped. And most bills are amended somewhere along the line before final passage.

Now, however, each time the bill is amended, the digest is changed to reflect the new language. This digest provides assurance to members on what they are voting. It also may help an author if his bill doesn't accomplish what he thought it would.

Thus there is little chance of a bill "slipping through" without anyone's knowing just what it does or of an author having a bill passed without being sure just what it does.

Murphy believes the digests and amended digests of bills may play an even more important part in the future. He noted several court decisions have cited the digest in attempting to determine what the intent of the legislature was in pass a particular statute.

The digests now also are indexed with the statutes so that, in future years, a person may check the digest to see the intent of the legislature at the time the new statute, or change in the statute, was approved.

If all of this work isn't enough, the Legislative Counsel also represents the legislature in court on such matters as reapportionment, whether propositions should go on election ballots and for numerous other reasons.

AFFAIRS OF STATE

State Trying to Hold a Firm Line on Tax Hikes

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — California's fiscal condition, insofar as the prospect of its taxing citizens, and this includes almost all citizens, being gouged for tax increases next year, is in a state of flux at the present time, with no answers available to determine when and whether the tax bite will chew the family pocketbook into finer shreds.

Governor Ronald Reagan is unable to say whether the many task forces he has had surveying the operations of state government will be able to come up with answers which will permit the State to live within its income without further tax increases.

His director of finance, Gordon Smith, has warned the Legislature that unless the Medi-Cal program is re-

vised, the State faces tax increases next year, and for many years thereafter.

The governor, however, gives some faint hope of holding the tax line, and at least raises the executive voice in opposition to more taxes. At a recent press conference, he said:

"I'll tell you I'm firmly resolved we are not going to raise taxes within the fiscal year."

Further he points out, "California has now become the highest, combined state

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and local, taxing state in the union. No other citizens pay for local-state government at the price that we do and I think the people of this state are paying too much for government right now."

However, what the governor thinks and what the state legislature does, are horses of different colors. It's a well known fact that change always is met with resistance, and the fact that the chief executive and his director of finance says there is a necessity for changing the spending habits of the state does not mean they will be changed, at least without some tremendous opposition by the spendthrifts the people have sent to the legislature.

Obviously, the situation when it arises before the 1968 legislature is bound to be tied up with politics, with the advocates of unlimited spending attacking supporters of a sane course of financing on emotional issues. But shunting emotion aside, some statistical facts remain. And these include the

fact that a wide-open welfare and Medi-Cal program can't be continued without more money.

Realization is going to come sooner or later to the legislature that the state is in the unhappy position of a family spending beyond its means, and unable to acquire added earnings to meet the deficit.

Heretofore, the legislature has been able to get sufficient revenues from the taxpayers, simply by increasing taxes. However, the billion dollar bite the solons imposed this year, well could be the last one the people will tolerate, without some type of revolt. Such a revolt would take the course of singing a swan song for the spendthrifts, or at least a portion of them at the 1968 elections, a step which would be the normal course, or it could manifest itself in other ways.

In any event, there is bound to be a crisis next year, with the solution depending on the action of the legislature.

In a year's time, the Reagan administration has scratched only the surface of curtailments that will have to be made to assure a reasonable future for California's taxpayers.

